

AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF THE  
INTERIOR TO CONDUCT STUDIES AND RENDER A REPORT ON  
THE FEASIBILITY OF DEVELOPING THE WATER RESOURCES OF  
THE SALT FORK OF THE RED RIVER IN THE STATE OF TEXAS

AUGUST 4, 1959.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. ANDERSON, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,  
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 4405]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 4405) to authorize and direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct studies and render a report on the feasibility of developing the water resources of the Salt Fork of the Red River in the State of Texas, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

TEXT OF THE BILL

The text of H.R. 4405 is as follows:

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and directed to conduct the necessary studies and render a report to the Congress on the feasibility of developing the water resources of that portion of the drainage area of the Salt Fork of the Red River lying in the State of Texas and that portion of the drainage area of the Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River lying in the State of Texas for furnishing municipal and industrial water and for other purposes.

PURPOSE OF H.R. 4405

The objective of H.R. 4405 is to reemphasize the existing authority of the Secretary of the Interior to prosecute the investigations authorized. The estimated cost would not exceed \$165,000.

## DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL

Prairie Dog Town Fork rises in the northern part of the State of Texas, southwest of the town of Amarillo, and flows almost due east from there into Oklahoma where it joins the Salt Fork and the North Fork and becomes what is known as the Red River. The Salt Fork lies to the north and parallel to the Prairie Dog Town Fork and is a tributary of that stream.

Water resources in this part of Texas are very limited. At the same time there is an urgent need for additional suitable water supplies for municipal and industrial purposes, as well as for irrigation. The two streams involved in this study offer the only opportunity for impounding surface water for beneficial consumptive-use purposes.

Limited information on the area is available as a result of limited studies by local agencies and by the Federal Government in connection with the Arkansas-White-Red River Basin investigations and the Mangum project investigations. Before the feasibility of development on these two streams can be determined, more detailed study and investigations are required.

Information is needed on the quantity, occurrence, and quality of the surface and ground water supplies; the potential requirements of water by municipalities, industries, and irrigation projects; the location, capacity, and other characteristics of the dam or dams which would be required; and the cost, benefits, and repayment which might be expected. H.R. 4405 provides for developing this needed information and, on the basis thereof, for determining the feasibility of developing the water resources.

The studies and report would be valuable in connection with negotiations presently underway among representatives of the States of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana with respect to a Red River Basin compact. This would assist in completing the basic data necessary to an equitable allotment of water among the States and would provide Texas with a plan for using the Red River Basin water allotted to it.

Cooperation with the Corps of Engineers, the Geological Survey, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the State, and the local agencies that have already initiated studies in the area will be carried out.

## DEPARTMENT REPORT

The report of the Department of the Interior favoring the enactment of this legislation follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
Washington, D.C., February 27, 1959.

HON. WAYNE N. ASPINALL,  
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,  
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. ASPINALL: This responds to your request for the views of this Department on H.R. 4405, a bill to authorize and direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct studies and render a report on the feasibility of developing the water resources of the Salt Fork of the Red River in the State of Texas.

We favor the enactment of the bill.

H.R. 4405 would direct this Department to undertake an investigation and report to the Congress on the feasibility of developing the waters of the Salt Fork and Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River within the State of Texas for municipal, industrial, and other uses. We have some limited information with respect to the area covered by the bill which was acquired in connection with the Arkansas-White-Red River Basins studies and other matters. This information indicates that there is a need for the development of additional, suitable water supplies for municipal and industrial uses as well as for irrigation. We understand that, at least in partial response to such need, two local agencies—the Greenbelt Water Control and Improvement District and the Collingsworth County Water Control and Improvement District—have employed private engineering firms to investigate the possibility of developing water supplies at two prospective reservoir sites.

If the bill should be enacted, we would propose to undertake, first, a general reconnaissance survey of the Salt Fork Basin and Prairie Dog Town Fork Basin areas lying in the State of Texas, to gather and coordinate all available information with regard to the water potential of the area, including both ground and surface waters, and possibilities of developing usable water supplies for irrigation and for municipal and industrial uses, taking into account the investigations being made for the districts mentioned above and their results. On the basis of the reconnaissance survey, we could then determine which possible developments would warrant the feasibility studies called for in the bill to be undertaken thereafter.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there would be no objection to the submission of this report to your committee.

Sincerely yours,

FRED G. AANDAHL,  
*Assistant Secretary of the Interior.*

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